CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/PV.665
3 September 1993

ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIFTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
on Friday, 3 September 1993, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Mounir Zahran (Egypt)

GE.93-62627 (E)

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I declare open the 665th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

We shall now proceed to the adoption of the reports of the ad hoc committees of the Conference. Does any delegation wish to speak before we take action? I see no one asking for the floor. I now put before the Conference for adoption the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, contained in document CD/1217. Can I consider that this document has been adopted?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): We shall now proceed to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency in Armaments, which has been circulated as document CD/1218. Can I take it that the Conference adopts the report?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): We shall now turn to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-nuclear-weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons. The report appears in document CD/1219. Can I consider that this report has been adopted?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): Last but not least, I put before the Conference for adoption the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban, circulated in document CD/1220. Does the Conference adopt the report? I believe that you are happy to do so.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): Before we proceed to other matters I would like to ask whether any delegation wishes to comment on the report that has just been adopted. I see no one asking for the floor. We shall now turn, then, to the report submitted by the Special Coordinator on expansion, Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan of Australia, which is contained in document CD/1214, and the statement delivered by him at the 663rd plenary meeting, which is an integral part of this report. On this occasion, then, I think that I have to say that as far as this report is concerned I shall continue informal consultations in the period to come in order to reach a consensus solution and I shall be in contact with all of you in this connection in the inter-sessional period.

We shall now proceed to the annual report of the Conference. I would like to remind you that we have already held an informal meeting during which we completed the first reading of the technical parts. In accordance with the practice of the Conference, this second reading will be done section by section. As already noted, the blank spaces will be filled in by the

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secretariat and the reports which are integral parts of the annual report will be added to it after its adoption, so that they will appear in the official document contained in the report. I also wish to point out that all the official documents circulated so far have been included, up to document CD/1221.

We shall begin with chapter I - "Introduction". Are there any comments? None. We move on to chapter II - "Organization of work of the Conference", section A entitled "1993 session of the Conference". Are there any comments on this section? None. Section B then, entitled "Participants in the work of the Conference". Are there any comments on this section? None. Section C, "Agenda and programme of work for the 1993 session" - are there any comments? I see no comments. Section D - I give the floor to Ambassador Kamal of Pakistan.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): I presume that we are discussing, in second reading, the organization of the work of the Conference, as a full chapter. Am I right, Sir?

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): Section by section.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): I have a comment only on section G when we come to it. Are you at section G or not yet?

The PRESIDENT: C.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): You are at C.

The PRESIDENT: C.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): I'm sorry. I misunderstood. I have a comment on G whenever you come to it, Sir.

The PRESIDENT: Geem in Arabic.

(continued in Arabic)

Section D, then - "Attendance and participation of States not members of the Conference". We have added here in paragraph 10 the non-member State Slovakia, the Republic of Slovakia, as we agreed before, and which was invited to participate in our work yesterday. Are there any comments? No comments. Then we move to section E, "Expansion of the membership of the Conference". In paragraph 13 the name of Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan has been added. We have also included a new paragraph 14 to reflect the statement made by the Special Coordinator on 26 August, and thus we have concluded this section. Are there any comments on section E? I am sorry. Adding to the aforementioned in section E, let me repeat it. Section E, "Expansion of the membership of the Conference". I would like to call attention to

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paragraph 13, where the name of Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan has been added. We have also included a new paragraph 14 to reflect the statement made by the Special Coordinator on 26 August, and we are also adding another paragraph in English:

(continued in English)

"At the 664th and 665th plenary meetings the Conference discussed the report of the Special Coordinator for membership. Many delegations made statements (CD/PV.664 and 665)."

(continued in Arabic)

Are there any comments on this? Section E. I give the floor to the representative of Malaysia.

Mr. GANAPATHY (Malaysia): I wish to draw your attention to paragraph 12, regarding requests for membership, and the list would appear to omit the request submitted by Malaysia. May I take it that this is not comprehensive at this moment and that it will be included at a later stage?

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Malaysia for his remark. There was an omission of the name of your country and it will be duly added. I apologize for this omission. Thank you. Now I invite Ambassador Steve Ledogar, the representative of the United States, to take the floor.

Mr. LEDOGAR (United States of America): Mr. President, I just would like to ask a question. Isn't it important to add to this short additional paragraph that would become paragraph 15 some words to the effect that no conclusion was reached by the Conference and that, as you just said before you began, that you intend to continue on this subject?

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Ledogar for his remark, and I think you have heard the suggestion made by Ambassador Ledogar to that effect, and I see no objection to that, and we can add that no conclusion was reached at this stage. Thank you. And as I told you I continue my consultations on this matter with a view to trying to get a consensus on this matter in the coming period, and I'll keep the coordinators and the members informed of the result and the progress of my consultations. Ambassador Ahmad Kamal, the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): Mr. President, would you have the kindness to read out the exact sentence that will be added to this paragraph?

The PRESIDENT: I give the floor to Ambassador Berasategui, the Secretary-General. Will you read it, please?

Mr. BERASATEGUI (Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations): If I understood correctly the proposal, we would add, at the end of the text and before the reference to the two PVs, the following text: "No conclusion was reached at this stage. The President of the Conference will continue consultations to achieve consensus during the inter-sessional period".

The PRESIDENT: I thank the Secretary-General. May I move now to the next section?

(continued in Arabic)

Section F, "Improved and effective functioning of the Conference". Are there any comments? None. Section G, "Communications from non-governmental organizations". Are there any comments on section G?. Now we shall proceed to chapter III, entitled "Substantive work of the Conference during its 1993 session", which appears in paragraphs 22 to 28 of the document. Are there any comments on this part? No comments. Then, section A, "Nuclear test ban". Are there any comments? None, thank you. We shall now move to section B, "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament". As agreed at the previous informal meeting, we have added a sentence in paragraph 32, and there are also references in paragraphs 34, 40 and 41, as previously agreed upon, and in section B we have also added document CD/1221. These additions were agreed upon at the previous informal meeting to amend these paragraphs that I have just referred to. Are there any comments? I see none.

Then, we move on to section C, "Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters". Are there any comments? I see no comments. Section D, "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". Are there any remarks, any comments? None. Thank you. Section E, "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons". Are there any comments on this section E? None. I thank you. We move to section F, "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons". Are there any comments on section F? None? Section G, "Comprehensive programme of disarmament". Any comments, any remarks? None. Section H, "Transparency in armaments". Any comments? I see none. Section I, "Consideration of other areas dealing with the cessation of the arms race and disarmament and other relevant measures". Are there any comments? I see none. Section J, "Consideration and adoption of the annual report of the Conference and any other report as appropriate to the General Assembly of the United Nations". Any comments? I see none.

We have thus concluded the second reading of the technical parts of the draft report. Before we proceed to take action, I would like to ask if any delegation wishes to make a statement at this stage. I see no delegation which wishes to do so. I suggest that we now adopt the annual report to the

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General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-eighth session, contained in document CD/WP.445/Rev.1, and the reports adopted today, as amended in the form agreed upon. If there is no objection I will consider that the Conference adopts the annual report.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I congratulate you on this and I would like to ask if any delegation wishes to make a statement after the adoption of the report. I give the floor to the delegation of Poland.

Mr. PAC (Poland): Mr. President, in connection with the adoption of the CD report for 1993, in my delegation's capacity as the coordinator of the East European Group and on its behalf I should like to place on record the Group's interest in the chairmanship of the Ad-Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban when such a subsidiary body of the Conference on Disarmament is re-established at the beginning of the CD 1994 session. As will be recalled, the regional group of Eastern Europe has not yet had the opportunity to chair that particular Ad Hoc Committee.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Poland and his intervention will be noted.

(continued in Arabic)

I thank you. I would like to give the floor to the distinguished representative of Cuba.

Mrs. BAUTA SOLES (Cuba) (translated from Spanish): Mr. President, I would like first and foremost to congratulate you on the result of our work that we have just adopted, and also to congratulate the rest of our colleagues. The point that has just been raised by the coordinator of the Eastern European Group undoubtedly merits further consideration, and it is my delegation's formal suggestion that this is a point on which you should carry out the necessary consultations. With this Commission, which is a formal proposal by my delegation, I would like to thank you for having given me the floor.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank the distinguished representative of Cuba. I have taken note of your statement and I shall naturally continue the consultations on this question too in the inter-sessional period. We have thus concluded our work on the report concerning the 1993 session of the Conference, and before concluding I would like to give the floor to the Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, who wishes to make a brief statement at this stage.

Mr. BERASATEGUI (Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations) (translated from Spanish): On the occasion of the last plenary meeting of the Conference in the 1993 session, I should like to make a short statement, since this is also my last plenary meeting in my current post and I should like therefore to take my leave of you on submitting my resignation from the post I occupy. In doing this I should like to assure you that, in the weeks that remain for me until the beginning of December to carry out the necessary administrative formalities, I shall take appropriate measures to maintain continuity in the work and make the necessary preparations so that the 1994 session of the Conference will begin normally.

The work that I have been carrying out in the secretariat of the Conference since 24 January 1979, and before that as a representative of my country for seven years, covers a lengthy period in my life. It is therefore not surprising that I leave you with the feelings that one has having concluded an important stage in one's personal and professional life and moving forward to a new stage, with the challenges that that implies. At the same time, I feel very pleased to be able to serve my country once again in its Foreign Service, to which I have had the honour to belong from a very young age, and to which I shall devote my best efforts in the coming years.

I am sure that I take with me the friendship of all of you. This friendship has a special significance for me, and I will continue to value it as a precious gift from my professional activities. To my colleagues and friends in the secretariat, all my gratitude for their devotion and impeccable work. I would not like to mention names so as not to omit any, but I would like to single out Mrs. Yvonne Santa Eugenia and Miss Anne Dolan, the two people who assisted me directly in recent years in the two posts that I have occupied, with their exceptional competence and sense of responsibility, beyond their normal obligations. To our interpreters, whom I have always considered as the best professionals in their delicate speciality, and the technical services, which have made it possible on countless occasions for the documentation always to be available when it was needed, even when the deadlines were tight, my gratitude for so many years of excellent cooperation.

I must state frankly that the secretariat offers a special example of administrative organisation, subject not only to the rules that are common to all structures of this kind, but also to others that are specific to it. For example, it is well known that Murphy's law, according to which if anything can go wrong it will, operates in all administrative activities. This also applies to the secretariat. But my colleagues and myself can assure you that in the case of the secretariat there are various corollaries to this law that I think have been developed over years of activity, and if you will allow me I would like to list them. First, nothing is as easy as it looks. Second, everything takes longer than you think. Third, if there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will cause the most damage will be the one to go wrong. Fourth, if you perceive that there are four possible ways in which a procedure can go wrong, and circumvent these, a fifth way will promptly develop. Fifth, left to themselves, things tend to go from bad to worse.

(Mr. Berasategui, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations)

You will think that this is quite sufficient, but perhaps you have forgotten that the Conference is the only multilateral negotiating body in the international community in the area of disarmament that operates by consensus. Therefore the secretariat of the Conference is subject to certain rules that are exclusive to this body that we all consider to be unique. Allow me to mention them briefly. First, the efficiency of a committee meeting is inversely proportional to the number of participants and the time spent on deliberations. Second, if you do something which you are sure will meet with everybody's approval, somebody won't like it. Third, smile ... tomorrow will be worse. Fourth - and I would say that this is the fundamental principle that guides our work in the secretariat - Murphy was an optimist.

Moving to more serious things, I do not intend to philosophize on the work of the Conference, what it should do or what it should be. It would be pretentious on my part to try to do so. But I do think that I can share with you the satisfaction that the Conference has managed to initiate the process that will lead to the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. This decision reaffirms the responsibilities of the Conference as the international community's multilateral negotiating body on disarmament.

I think that you have all heard me say, on more than one occasion, that I am convinced that all the States represented here have a special interest in strengthening the Conference as a forum in which they can appropriately protect their national interests in a context of international cooperation and mutual respect. On the completion of the negotiations on the chemical weapons Convention, a question arose that circulated persistently in the corridors. Now what? I never had any doubts that there would be much more to do, as was shown on other occasions with the conclusion of the agreements that preceded that Convention. Now the Conference is beginning negotiations of very great importance for the entire international community.

I would like to conclude with a personal note. As we all know, in this Conference a warm personal dialogue has been established that prevails over the differences in positions held, so it is not surprising that many of you have asked me about my future, and perhaps now I should endeavour to reply. In fact I promised some of you that I would try to do this now. The medium term is in the hands of fate, and I must not even try to predict it, but I can give you satisfaction as to the immediate future. Tonight, I shall go out to dinner with my wife, who has shared so many experiences with me and who is in the gallery, in order to celebrate her birthday.

Thank you all.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): Ambassador Berasategui, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, allow me to express on behalf of all of us in the Conference on Disarmament our profound appreciation to you for all that you have done for this Conference of ours over the past years, both in your previous capacity as Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference and in your

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present capacity as Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. You have always been ready and available to assist and advise the successive Presidents of the Conference, those currently in office as well as those incoming and outgoing. You have rendered every assistance to the meetings and have monitored the procedural aspects to facilitate the work of the Conference. It is no exaggeration to say that, due to your long experience and your tireless efforts, this has been successful. We are all sorry that you are leaving your present post, although we know you will return to serve the Government of Argentina, where you will be assuming an important post in response to the call of your nation.

Ambassador Berasategui has previously served for many years in the Argentine Diplomatic Service as head of the Organization of American States Division of the Foreign Ministry, as Alternate Representative to the sessions of the Preparatory Commission for the Denuclearization of Latin America and as head of the Argentine delegation to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament as well as his country's representative to the First Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations, among other important posts that he has held. Within the United Nations itself, Ambassador Berasategui has served as Secretary of the First Committee of the General Assembly and Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He was also Chairman of the Working Group on Confidence- and Security-building and Verification Measures of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia in Geneva. He has also worked as a professor and a lecturer.

Allow me to say, Mr. Ambassador and Secretary-General of the Conference, that your decision was a surprise to us and we were not prepared in our minds to see you leave the Conference on Disarmament so quickly. You have an excellent memory of the evolution of the work of the present Conference on Disarmament and you have followed all the main events in the field of disarmament. You will be greatly missed. You have witnessed important events in the Conference on Disarmament, including numerous negotiations on disarmament instruments, the most recent of which was the Convention on chemical weapons on which negotiations were concluded exactly one year ago.

We had all hoped that you would be with us when we concluded another international convention, and I refer in particular to the convention which we all hope to finalize and on which, in the inter-sessional period, we shall conduct consultations, namely the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty.

I believe we all agree on the importance of maintaining the customary consultations among the members of the Conference regarding the person who will be nominated as the successor of Ambassador Berasategui in this important post of Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in pursuance of paragraph 120 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, SSOD-I.

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In conclusion I would like to extend to you, dear friend, dear colleague, Ambassador Vicente Berasategui, and to your wife our best wishes for good health, happiness and continued success as you prepare to return to the beautiful capital of your country, Buenos Aires. I thank you.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan of Australia.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN (Australia): Mr. President, I thought that Ambassador Berasategui was going to propose a special CD version of Murphy's law which says that if 36 things go right, a 37th will go wrong.

I take the floor today on behalf of the members of the Western Group to express our regret at the news that Ambassador Vicente Berasategui will shortly resign as Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament to return to national service. It is highly understandable that the Argentine Foreign Service would welcome his return given his distinguished service as a career diplomat for almost 40 years. However, the invaluable contributions of Ambassador Berasategui to the causes of disarmament mean that we cannot but regret his departure from this forum. The flawless professionalism and the consummate wisdom which has marked Ambassador Berasategui's service as Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament since his appointment in 1992 will be missed, I am sure, by all.

Ambassador Berasategui brought with him a rich experience stemming from service in positions in numerous disarmament conferences and committees both in the United Nations and in regional forums, and in particular from his time as Alternative Representative and subsequently head of the Argentine delegation to the predecessor body of the Conference on Disarmament, the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

More recently Ambassador Berasategui's service as Director of the Geneva Branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, his eight-year term as Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, together with his service for the past two years as our Secretary-General, illustrate clearly the depth and the breadth of knowledge and experience which we are now losing.

As Secretary-General during the period in which the CD accomplished one of its most important and difficult achievements, the conclusion of the CWC, the value of Ambassador Berasategui's astute guidance and mastery of the complexities of multilateral work were exemplified.

In addition to his outstanding capacity to contribute to the goals of this Conference, we will miss the impeccable manners, the unfailing courtesy and the quiet competence of Ambassador Berasategui.

It remains for me only to thank him once again on behalf of the Western Group for his distinguished contribution to this Conference and to wish him well in his future position in his national service and to wish him and his wife long health and prosperity.

(Mr. O'Sullivan, Australia)

Mr. President, the Western Group wishes to use this occasion to record its expectation that the Conference on Disarmament will be consulted before any appointment to the positions of Secretary-General or Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference would be made.

The PRESIDENT: I thank you very much, Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan, for your statement and I think the President of the Conference shares with the Western Group and, I believe, all members of the Conference on the last remark you made about consultation with the members of the Conference on the appointment of a new Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament.

And now I invite the representative of Cuba to take the floor.

Mrs. BAUTA SOLES (Cuba) (translated from Spanish): The Group of 21 asked that I should bid a formal farewell this afternoon on its behalf to the Secretary-General of our Conference, Ambassador Vicente Berasategui. The delegations insisted that it should be duly placed on the record of this Conference that the Group has always highly appreciated the professional skills and the personal disposition of Ambassador Berasategui in his duties. They also emphasized that a note should be made of the Group's gratitude for the cooperation that Ambassador Berasategui has always shown not only to the Group of 21 and the other groups individually, but also to the Conference as a whole. A third point was also stressed, which has to do with the fact that we could not, or I could not on behalf of the Group, fail to wish Ambassador Berasategui and his distinguished wife every success in their future roles. There is, however, a fourth point that the Group did not ask me to speak about now but I am certain that it will support this, and that is to take this opportunity to wish the distinguished Mrs. Berasategui happy birthday. So I am very pleased to do so and it only remains for me, I think, to convey to both of them best wishes for success and personal happiness.

I do not wish to conclude without saying that the Group of 21, as it has already made clear in the course of the Presidential consultations, attributes special importance to the fact that in the process of the appointment of the new Secretary-General and deputy secretaries-general of this Conference the Secretary-General of the United Nations should realize and involve the opinions of the members of this Conference.

Mr. PAC (Poland): At this stage, speaking on behalf of the East European regional Group, I must say that it is very difficult to add anything to the eloquent tribute which Ambassador O'Sullivan has paid to Mr. Berasategui. However, I should like to say how much we will regret that, as it follows from the statement just read out by Ambassador Berasategui, the Conference on Disarmament will not have much longer the benefit of his disarmament expertise, diplomatic skill and the managerial experience which our distinguished Secretary-General and Personal Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General was bringing to the Conference. However, our loss is clearly the gain of Argentina's Foreign Service, to which Mr. Berasategui has been called. We wish him every success in the years ahead. On a more personal note, on behalf of the Polish delegation and on my own behalf I want to say that with the retirement of Vicente from the

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Conference on Disarmament, we shall be missing a distinguished colleague and a personal friend of years-long standing. On behalf of Ambassador Dembinski and in my own name I wish Vicente Berasategui all the best wherever he will be serving his country in the years ahead.

Mr. HOU (China) (translated from Chinese): With deep regret and also with a sense of happiness we have unexpectedly learned that Ambassador Berasategui is leaving his present post as Secretary-General. I fully endorse the speech made by you, Mr. President, on behalf of all of us. It is regrettable because Ambassador Berasategui is, as we all know, one of the best Secretaries-General. Over the years our CD has benefited a lot from his rich diplomatic experience, his vast knowledge and his very high personal qualities. He is very good at solving knotty problems. Very often questions which hi-tech and computers cannot resolve can be resolved through him. Especially when our CD is at a crucial stage we need his help more than ever. The Chinese delegation is pleased that we have had good cooperation from the Secretary-General and the secretariat. Not long ago when I served as President, I also benefited from close cooperation with him as well as his talent, wisdom and experience. We are also happy for him because he has an opportunity to serve his country better and his country will also benefit more directly from his service.

Mr. Secretary-General, we are grateful to you for all you have done for us. We wish you and your wife well and we hope greater achievements await you.

Mr. NORBERG (Sweden): Sweden is, since a few months, not a member of any group, and I can assure you that we do not always agree with what representatives of the various groups say, but tonight I am very happy. I can agree with every word said by the coordinators of the three groups regarding the professional skills and personality of Ambassador Berasategui. I know him from the time he was representing his country here in the so-called CCD, so I can testify to the fact that he is in all respects a very competent and a very pleasant and nice person. So I wish you well, success in your new post and I trust that your wife and yourself will have a very pleasant evening tonight.

Mr. LANUS (Argentina) (translated from Spanish): A few moments ago the Secretary-General of the Conference, Ambassador Vicente Berasategui, informed us of his forthcoming departure. As Vicente Berasategui is a colleague in the Argentine Foreign Service and an old and admired friend, you will understand the logical determinants of subjectivity. In the past two years we have seen important developments in the Conference on Disarmament. A multilateral treaty on chemical weapons was adopted and we are on the threshold of negotiations on another international instrument on nuclear tests which has long been awaited by the international community. At this very moment the Secretary-General, who directed our work in this delicate phase of transition and change, has announced that he is leaving his post. It is appropriate to ask what would have become of these results if we had not had his support and his calm guidance in the Conference in the many situations that have marked these intense last two years in our Conference. I do not think I am

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exaggerating when I say that it will not be easy for the Conference on Disarmament to find a successor with the relentless efficiency and discretion which such an important post requires and which found such a distinguished example in Ambassador Berasategui.

I met him a few months after I joined the diplomatic service and I have always respected him for his integrity, his beliefs and because he was a loyal friend. I have always had the benefit of his advice and opinions. As an Argentine, I am happy that the ranks of our diplomats will once again include this distinguished Ambassador. As a delegate to this Conference, I regret that we are collectively losing someone who knew how to guide us so effectively in our work as a body, always promoting the interests of the international community, as befits an international civil servant. As I say goodbye to him today, I have the exclusive pleasure of welcoming him at the same time. I would like to wish him and his wife Teresita, who is present here, much luck and happiness.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank the Ambassador of Argentina for his statement. Now we have come to the time when I have to make the closing statement for this Conference. At the end of the Conference on Disarmament's 1992 session there was widespread concern that the Conference on Disarmament would go through a post-chemical period of hibernation. Fortunately that concern proved to be unfounded, and we can all look back on our 1993 session after its conclusion with a measure of satisfaction. At the outset of our session and under the able guidance of Ambassador Celso Amorim, the Ambassador of Brazil at the time and its present Minister for Foreign Affairs, we were able to agree on a programme of work for the 1993 session and thus we set up four ad hoc committees to concentrate on four priority aspects in our agenda and we also agreed to continue our consultations on the issues of the improved and effective functioning of the Conference on Disarmament, the expansion of the membership, the agenda, and non-proliferation in all its aspects. The Conference, under the coordination of Ambassador Ahmad Kamal, the Ambassador of Pakistan, the Conference of Disarmament's Special Coordinator on improved and effective functioning, agreed on a number of criteria which will help to improve the effectiveness of our work in the Conference. The continuation of this endeavour in 1994 will no doubt allow for further positive developments in this field. As far as the role of coordinator of work on expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament is concerned, this task was carried out patiently by Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan of Australia. Although no final decision has been reached in this connection, nevertheless there was good progress. As President of the Conference in the inter-sessional period, I pledge to continue, as we agreed, the informal consultations on this issue in the hope that a positive outcome may be achieved by consensus. Under the enlightened coordination of Ambassador Marín Bosch, the Ambassador of Mexico, useful discussions were also held in informal sessions on the question of non-proliferation in all its aspects. Given the magnitude of this issue, conclusive results were not expected. However, the informal nature of the discussions contributed to a

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better understanding of the various views and positions on the subject. On the issue of the agenda and bearing in mind the expansion exercise that the Conference has undertaken, it was agreed that it might be best to continue the consultations on this matter in 1994.

In response to paragraph (c) of General Assembly decision 47/422, which requested the Conference to transmit the results of its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era", the Conference held a number of important meetings which resulted in the adoption of document CD/1183, entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament on the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled 'New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war-era'". Also in accordance with paragraph (c) of General Assembly decision 47/422, the Conference on Disarmament transmitted to the Chairman of the First Committee a report entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament on the ongoing review of the agenda, composition and methods of work of the Conference".

As already stated, the Conference on Disarmament agreed this year to set up four ad hoc committees, all of which I believe were able to achieve significant progress during the 1993 session. We can also say that the most significant breakthrough this year was achieved in the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban under the experienced and able chairmanship of Ambassador Tanaka of Japan. By deciding to devote much of the Committee's time, including the numerous expert presentations, to verification techniques, whether seismic or non-seismic, the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban was able to achieve positive results made possible by the declarations of the Governments of the United States, France and the Russian Federation to extend their voluntary moratoriums on nuclear testing which culminated in the adoption by the Conference of its resolution contained in document CD/1212, which constitutes a landmark in the history of disarmament negotiations, bearing in mind the positive effect that this will have on the NPT review and extension conference in 1995. The decision by the Conference on Disarmament is a landmark, as I said, in the history of disarmament negotiations. As President of the Conference on Disarmament during its inter-sessional period, I would like to assure Ambassador Tanaka that I will make every effort to facilitate the discharge of the tasks entrusted to his Committee by the Conference on Disarmament's above-mentioned decision. In addition, I am also confident that the inter-sessional period will be further put to good use by finding a negotiating mandate on a CTBT and by reaching agreement on the basis upon which our negotiations in this regard will be built in the 1994 session.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, under the able guidance of Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann of Germany, has achieved significant results. The Committee focused its attention on the issue of confidence-building measures, even though it was recognized that

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these are not an end in themselves but only a means towards the attainment of the ultimate objective of the Ad Hoc Committee, namely the actual prevention of an arms race in outer space.

In the Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-nuclear-weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons, and under the capable leadership of Ambassador Neagu of Romania, numerous key issues were openly discussed. This has given all of us a clearer understanding of the various views and positions, and has thereby paved the way for substantive and practical achievements in the future and perhaps in the 1994 session of the Conference.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency in Armaments, which I had the honour to chair, was able to look carefully at the various issues under its mandate, as derived from General Assembly resolution 46/36L. While the discussions were not conclusive in this Committee, they did in fact result in a significant degree of mutual understanding, transparency and openness. Eighteen excellent working papers were also submitted to the Committee by various delegations and will help to enrich the discussions on this topic in the 1994 session of the Conference on Disarmament.

Last but certainly not least we succeeded today in adopting our annual report of the Conference on Disarmament for 1993, which will be submitted to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. On this occasion I wish to congratulate all of you on the diligent work and dedication you have displayed throughout this session since last January. It will be an honour for me on behalf of all of you to introduce this report to the First Committee during the forthcoming forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

Before concluding my statement, I also wish to assure you that, in my capacity as President of the Conference during its inter-sessional period, I intend to conduct early informal consultations with a view to facilitating the adoption of a programme of work by the Conference on Disarmament at the outset of its 1994 session. I do not wish to end my statement without expressing once again my gratitude to Ambassador Vicente Berasategui, the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for all the guidance and support that he has given me during my presidency of the Conference. I once again express my regret that he will be leaving this post. I wish him every future success and health and happiness during his work in the service of his country, Argentina. I would also like to express my gratitude to all the members of the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament, to the interpreters in all the languages, and all those who have helped to ensure the success of this session.

In conclusion I would like to announce that the next plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will be held on Tuesday, 25 January 1994 at 10 a.m., in accordance with the agreement reached yesterday on the dates for

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the 1994 session of the Conference on Disarmament, taking into consideration also the possibility that the President is empowered to convene a special session if we are able to reach a consensus in the informal consultations that I have pledged to carry out in the inter-sessional period. I thank you once again for your cooperation, and I would like to reiterate my best wishes for the coming period, and until we meet again - perhaps in New York, at the First Committee of the General Assembly - my best wishes to you all.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.